

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort Brady/Camp Lucas Target Range

SITE NUMBER: E50MI000500

LOCATION:

City: Rexford
County: Chippewa
State: Michigan

PROJECT NUMBER: E05MI000501

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

Name: Richard L. Pike
Office: CEHNC-OE-DC
Phone: 256-895-1559

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: John Hall
Office: CEORN-ER-M
Phone: 615-736-5966

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: J. Wayne Mello
Office: CEORD-DL-M
Phone: 513-684-6249

HEADQUARTERS POC:

Name: J.R. Gibson
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: 202-761-4709

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Jodi L. Bausman
Office: CENCR-ED-DO
Phone: 309-794-6157

ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

Name: Thomas M. Meekma
Office: SIOAC-ESL
Phone: 815-273-8739

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Camp Lucas/Fort Brady Target Range, with a total of 2,348 acres, is located in Chippewa County, Michigan, one mile south of Rexford and approximately 27 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie. After 1962, the War Department turned control of the former range back to the United States Department of Agriculture. Today the site is part of the Hiawatha National Forest. It is maintained as a wildlife area

with public access. The public uses the target areas for shooting and the range area for berry picking. There are no recreational or camping areas established or planned for the future. To this day the land lies idle and remains the same as when it was active with all the rifle berms and shooting positions still in place.

The former site is partially covered with timber but, for the most part, is a grass covered plain. The land at the site is level to mildly rolling with elevations ranging from 830 to 925 feet above sea level. Various tributaries lying to the south and east boundaries of the site flow into the Pine River which drains into St. Martins Bay. Average seasonal snowfall is 115 inches.

4. SITE HISTORY: After the establishment of Fort Brady in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in November 1892, the War Department had a need to establish a training area to support the fort. The War Department acquired 2,948.11 acres of land from public domain by Executive Order dated 19 January 1895. The land was acquired for use as a rifle range for small arms training by Fort Brady personnel. A 600 acre section of the property was transferred to Raco Airfield on 27 August 1942 decreasing the acreage to 2,348.11 rounded off to the project acreage of 2,348. Utilization for small arms training by the War Department ended 12 Oct 1945 when it was placed in surplus status. Administrative control of the 2,348.11 acres was relinquished to the Department of Agriculture, 2,070.97 acres on 24 September 1946 and 277.14 acres on 22 November 1948. On 19 November 1951 the Department of Army recalled the 2,348.11 acre tract for use once again as a rifle range. This time the range was established for training to support the newly established Camp Lucas in Sault St. Marie, Michigan. Camp Lucas Target Range was utilized from 1951 until 23 May 1962 when the Department of Army declared the site excess and returned control of the land back to the Department of Agriculture.

The original Fort Brady target range had 10 buildings constructed on it. They consisted of a warehouse, bath house, three mess halls, a generator house, a range house, a headquarters building, a post exchange and barber shop, a well house, and a pump house. None of these buildings remain on the site. Removal dates are not known.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	267
Former Use:	Small Arms Target Range
Present Use:	Hiawatha National Forest

Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Grenades and Mortars, HE

AREA B

Size, Acres:	242
Former Use:	Target Range
Present Use:	Hiawatha National Forest
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice 3.5" rockets
	Potential
Type:	3.5" HE rockets, Grenades and Mortars, HE

AREA C

Size, Acres:	1,424
Former Use:	Impact Area
Present Use:	Hiawatha National Forest
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Grenades and Mortars, HE

AREA D

Size, Acres:	415
Former Use:	Remaining Land
Present Use:	Hiawatha National Forest
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Grenades and Mortars, HE

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Fort Brady/Camp Lucas Target Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: EE/CA
Area B: EE/CA
Area C: EE/CA
Area D: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Strategy is EE/CA for all areas. The reason for a strategy of EE/CA in lieu of NOFA for Areas A, C, and D was the second page of document F-4 in the ASR Findings. It stated that there was a mortar impact area and grenade training areas at the site which were found to be free of unexploded rounds and were recommended as entirely safe for civilian use or further military use. Also, it is mentioned that

a rocket was found in 1944 by some children at a location five miles from the site who were killed by the rocket. Based on this incident, and since the locations of grenade and mortar areas within the site were not described, the strategy became EE/CA for all areas. In addition to the potential for grenades and mortar ammunition, the EE/CA for Area B also includes confirmed presence of Practice 3.5 inch rocket residue as well as a potential for 3.5 inch HE rockets.

OE Records Review: (1) One article stated that American troops conducted artillery training in Canada while the Canadian soldiers conducted maneuvers and small arms training with Americans at the site. (2) One document from 1946 stated that mortar and hand grenade training was conducted at the site, but did not specify the location. The same document states that both locations for this training were inspected, found free of unexploded rounds and were entirely safe for civilian use or further military use. (3) The last document also states that troops from Fort Brady used some Forest Service land five miles from this site for bazooka firing where children found a dud rocket in 1944 and were later killed by it. This tract, outside the bounds of this site was also inspected and declared entirely safe for continued use by the Forest Service and by the public.

HTRW: Lead bullets in the rifle range berms in Areas A and B are a concern. ASR photographs show a carpet of bullets on the surface of the ground, an indication of heavy contamination below the surface of the berms.

Natural Resources: There are known State-listed species occurring in the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, pages 4 thru 5, paragraphs 3f thru 3g and in Table 3-2. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are recognized by the Michigan State Historical Preservation Office. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only

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Template: D:\Program Files\Templates\Normal.dot
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